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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/720,395

11/25/2003

Sung Gi Hwang

K-0567

4274

34610 7590 03/07/2007
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EXAMINER

LU, JIPING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3749

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/07/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

ED

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/720,395	HWANG, SUNG GI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jiping Lu	3749	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/5/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-11, 16-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U. S. Pat. 3,520,568) in view of Chioffi et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,082,787).

Patent to White et al. shows a dryer comprising a housing 12, a drum 11 rotatably installed in the housing, a heating apparatus for supplying hot air to the drum (col. 2, lines 59-61), a configured door 13 and an apparatus configured to releaseably engage the door 13 and the housing 12. A hook 17 has a hanging portion 26. A latch assembly 18 has a latch body 19. A holder 25 releasably holds the hanging portion 26 which are arranged same as claimed. However, patent to White et al. does not show the door opening/closing apparatus with a latch assembly having a pair of holders to releasably hold the hanging portion, a pair of springs provided in rear of the holders and a pair of support members provided to the latch body to support a rear portion

Art Unit: 3749

of one of the springs so that the springs remain stable as the holders move. Chioffi et al. teach a door opening/closing device for a domestic electrical appliance comprising a latch assembly 1 with a latch body 2, a pair of holders 8,9 configured to translate within the latch body 2 to engage and disengage the hanging portion of hook 21, a pair of springs 10, 11 provided in rear of the holders and a pair of support members with a pair of vertical ribs and a horizontal rib (not numbered, see Figs. 1, 3-4, 6-7, parts support springs 10, 11) to support each of the springs to move stably, a latch cap 4, a first reception part 3b, a pair of second reception parts (on both sides of the first reception part), a pair of passing holes (at 8, 9), a recess (at 10), a protrusion 8b, 9b, a hollow portion for receiving spring (not numbered, see Fig. 3, 6) which are arranged same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the latch assembly 1 of Chioffi et al. for the latch assembly of White et al. in order to improve the safety.

4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U. S. Pat. 3,520,568) in view of Chioffi et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,082,787) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Cravener (U. S. Pat. 2,489,864).

The dryer of White et al. as modified by Chioffi et al. as above includes all that is recited in claim 14 except for the bolts for fixing the latch cap to the latch body. Cravener teaches a latch assembly with bolts 16 for fixing the latch cap 14 to the latch body same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the dryer of Chioffi et al to include bolts for fixing the latch cap to the latch body as taught by Cravener in order to facilitate install and replace latch cap.

5. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U. S. Pat. 3,520,568) in view of Chioffi et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,082,787) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Fleming (U. S. Pat. 4,480,862) or Fig. 1 of applicant admitted prior art.

The dryer of White et al. as modified by Chioffi et al. as above includes all that is recited in claim 15 except for the hook is built in one body of a fixing plate screw-coupled to one side of the door. Fleming teaches a latching mechanism with a hook 32 is built in one body of a fixing plate 34 screw-coupled to one side of the door jamb. Fig. 1 of applicant admitted prior art teaches a latching mechanism with a hook 30 is built in one body of a fixing plate (not numbered) screw-coupled to one side of the door 10. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the dryer of Chioffi et al to include a hook with screw-coupled fixing plate as taught by Fleming or fig. 1 of applicant admitted prior art in order to facilitate install and replace hook.

6. Claims 1-9, 11-17, 19-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (U. S. Pat. 3,520,568) in view of Saunders (U. S. Pat. 2,869,952).

Patent to White et al. shows a dryer comprising a housing 12, a drum 11 rotatably installed in the housing, a heating apparatus for supplying hot air to the drum (col. 2, lines 59-61), a door 13 and an apparatus for opening/closing the door 13 comprising a hook 17 with hanging portion 26 and a latch assembly 18 having a latch body 19 and a holder 25 to hold the hanging portion 26 which are arranged same as claimed. However, patent to White et al. does not show the door opening/closing apparatus with a latch assembly having a pair of holders to hold the hanging portion, a pair of springs provided in rear of the holders and a support member provided to the latch body to support each of the springs to move stably. Saunders teaches a door

Art Unit: 3749

opening/closing device for a domestic electrical appliance comprising a latch assembly with a latch body 31, a pair of holders 39-44 configured to translate within the latch body to engage and disengage the hanging portion of hook 29, a pair of springs 47 provided in rear of the holders and a support member 36 with a pair of vertical ribs 36 and a horizontal rib 46 to support each of the springs to move stably, a latch cap 13, a first reception part (at 32), a pair of second reception parts (on both sides of the first reception part), a pair of passing holes (not numbered, see Fig. 3-4), a recess (at 38) and a protrusion (at 42) which are arranged same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the latch assembly of Saunders for the latch assembly of White et al. in order to improve the safety.

Terminal Disclaimer

7. The terminal disclaimer filed on 10/5/06 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 6,954,992, respectively has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

8. The terminal disclaimer filed on 12/5/06 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 10/721,340, respectively has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 12/5/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive to overcome the rejection. First, broad claims 1 and 27 failed to structurally define

Art Unit: 3749

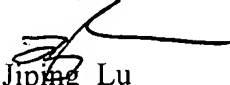
over the prior art references. The applicant is requested to point out from the claims if there is any structural limitations not shown or taught by the prior art references. It is further requested that the applicant to point out specific language in claims 1 and 27 that the prior art references do not show. Second, to further rebut the applicant's arguments regarding lack of teachings to combine, the examiner hereby incorporates by reference of Paragraph 9 of the Final rejection of June 5, 2005.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiping Lu whose telephone number is 571 272 4878. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RINEHART KENNETH can be reached on 571 272-4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jiping Lu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3749

J. L.